*Textual analysis* was employed to examine the ways in which sex, gender and sexuality are understood within, and constructed by, the GRA. The research examined the extent to which the Act represented continuities with, and shifts away from, medical understandings of transsexuality. While textual analysis was used to address research objective 1, qualitative research was ideally suited to examining individual and collective experiences, understandings and processes of decision making (research objectives 2-4) as above. Research objectives 2-4 were explored through the following methods:

*One-to-one interviews* with 25 people from across the UK. Face-to-face interviews were chosen (as opposed to on-line interviews) for their greater potential for relationship building between researcher and participant, which may enable richer data collection. Participants were recruited through existing networks, through snowballing techniques and through requests placed on transgender websites, journals and newsletters. Purposive sampling enabled the diversity required to meet the research objectives by incorporating married and single people, and those choosing to register for gender recognition and those choosing not to. Further diversity was built into the sample in terms of age, transitional time span, gender, sexuality, and degree of involvement with transgender organisations and political movements.The size of the sample group enabled the project to be both manageable and illuminating. The interview schedule provided open ended questions to enable an exploratory study.

*Virtual methods* were be applied to broaden the scope of the project’s address in order to gain a wider understanding of individual and collective responses to the GRA in the UK. Analysis of two online transgender forums was conducted over a one month period to ensure that this method of analysis was manageable.

Initial findings from the above methods guided questions for *focus group interviews*. Two focus groups were held in which the meanings, significance and experiences of gender recognition were explored within a collective context. Focus group 1 was made up of 9 members of a transgender support group. Focus group 2 was made up of 8 members of a transgender political/campaigning organisation and individuals who had been involved in the development of the GRA. The latter enabled engagement in policy debates throughout the research process and opened dissemination avenues for policy recommendations to arise from the project. The number of focus groups and the number of members in each ensured that the use of this method was manageable. Focus group interviewing allowed insight into people’s shared understandings, experiences and opinions of the GRA, and enabled interactive dialogue. Open ended questions prompted and facilitated debate. Questions focused upon experiences and opinions of the significance and the limitations of the GRA from a client perspective, a legislative and medical perspective and a campaigning perspective.

Ethical approval was given to the research by a Faculty level Research Ethics Committee at the University of Leeds. The research followed the BSA and ESRC ethical guidelines. Informed consent was gained from l research participants; pseudonyms were used and security measures were implemented in the storing of data. No unforeseen ethical issues arose.